

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANAA 01146 141050Z

62

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 IO-10 SAJ-01 /088 W

----- 008558

R 140900Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5492

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 1146

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MASS, JO, YE

SUBJECT: JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR ON RECENT INTERNAL YEMENI DEVELOPMENTS

1. SUMMARY: DURING MAY 12TH CONVERSATION JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR HAIDAR DESCRIBEA HIS RECENT MEETING WITH CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT SHAIKH ABDULLAH AL-AHMAR NOTING THAT AL-AHMAR APPEARS TO HAVE ACQUIESCED TO HAMDI'S RECENT MILITARY PURGE; EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT LTC AHMED AL-SHAWARIB IN POSITION TO THREATEN HAMDI; REPORTED ON EARLIER MEETING WITH PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI; INDICATED THAT SOVIET INFLUENCE WITH YEMENI ARMY DIMINISHING. DESPITE OVER ZEALOUSNESS AND OCCASIONAL INDISCRETIONS, AMBASSADOR HAIDAR IS EFFECTIVE AND PERSUASIVE PLAYER ON THE LOCAL SCENE. HIS SHOESTRING OPERATION HERE DEMONSTRATES FACT THAT A LITTLE ASSISTANCE GOES A LONG WAY" IN YEMEN. END SUMMARY.

2. PRIOR TO MAY 12 DINNER AND WHILE WAITING FOR YEMEN'S CHIEF OF STAFF AHMED GHASHMI (DETAILS BEING REPORTED IN SEPTTEL) JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR MUSTAFA HAIDAR AND I HAD LONG CONVERSATION WHICH FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON RECENT INTERNAL YEMENI DEVELOPMENTS AS COVERED IN FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS.

3. MEETING WITH SAHIKH ABUDLLAH AL-AHMAR. JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANAA 01146 141050Z

STATED THAT EARLIER SAME DAY, HE HAD MEETING WITH SHAIKH

AL-AHMAR, PRESIDENT OF THE CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY, SHORTLY AFTER LATTER'S RETURN FROM HIS SULKING PERIOD IN HIS HOME TOWN. JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR STATED THAT AL-AHMAR APPEARS TO HAVE ACQUIESCED TO AL-HAMDI'S RECENT MOVES ELIMINATING THE ABU LUHUMS AND ABU SHAWARIB FROM THEIR MILITARY COMMANDS. AL-AHMAR, HOWEVER, CONTINUES TO BE UNHAPPY WITH THESE CHANGES PARTICULARLY WITH THE REMOVAL OF ABU SHAWARIB, HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW. AL-AHMAR KEPT REPEATING TO JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR THAT AL-HAMDI HAD CARRIED OUT A "COUP" (INQALAB) AGAINST HIS SENIOR SUBORDINATES. JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR SAID HE TRIED TO EXPLAIN TO AL-AHMAR THE NEED FOR CONTINUED COOPERATION BETWEEN AL-HAMDI AND AL-AHMAR THE FACE OF A COMMON THREAT. JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR COMMENTED HE WAS NOT SURE THAT AL-AHMAR FULLY APPRECIATES GRAVITY OF SITUATION BUT THAT INSPITE OF HIS OBTUSENESS AL-AHMAR APPARENTLY REALIZES HE CANNOT DO ANYTHING AT THIS TIME AGAINST HAMDI, "WHO IS GROWING STRONGER EVERY DAY".

4. ABD SHAWARIB POSITION. JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HE HAD OBTAINED COPY OF TELEGRAM IN WHICH AL-SHAWARIB USED "FOUL LANGUAGE" GHASHMI AND WARNED HIM THAT HE (ABU SHAWARIB) WAS ON HIS WAY TO SANAA TO SHOW GHASHMI AND THE OTHERS WHO WAS REAL POWER IN YEMEN. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT THE TELEGRAM WAS ADDRESSED TO "GHASHAMERICAN". THE JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR COMMENTED THAT HE DOUBTED ABU SHAWARIB WAS IN A POSITION TO CARRY OUT HIS THREATS AGAINST GOVERNMENT AND ADDED THAT THE JORDANIAN MILITARY ADVISERS WERE IMPRESSED AT THE BROAD SUPPORT WHICH HAMDI IS RECEIVING WITHIN THE YEMENI ARMY AND EVEN FROM ABU SHAWARIB'S OLD UNIT, THE MAJD BRIGADE.

5. MEETING WITH HAMDI. JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR ALSO DESCRIBED HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT HAMDI THE PREVIOUS DAY IN WHICH INTER ALIA HE HAD ADVISED HAMDI TO FOLLOW KING HUSSEIN'S APPROACH TO GOVERNMENT BY INVOLVING HIMSELF IN THE DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS OF THE ARMY AND OF THE VARIOUS MINISTRIES. THE JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR SPECIFICALLY RECOMMENDED THAT HAMDI SPEND MORE TIME WITH THE TROOPS AND THE TRIBAL ELEMENTS BY LISTENING TO THEIR COMPLAINTS AND BY TRYING TO MEET THEIR MORE REASONABLE REQUESTS. AMBASSADOR HAIDAR SAID THAT HAMDI EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THIS ADVICE AND INDICATED HE INTENDED TO MODEL HIMSELF AFTER KING HUSSEIN WHOM HE CALLED HIS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SANAA 01146 141050Z

BROTHER AND TEACHER. HAMDI ALSO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR ALL OF JORDAN'S ASSISTANCE TO THE YEMEN ARMY AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT JORDANIAN ADVISERS WOULD EVENTUALLY REPLACE ALL THE SOVIET ADVISERS. IN THIS REGARD HAMDI ALSO ASKED THAT LTCOL SALEM ABU ZAYD, HEAD OF THE JORDANIAN MILITARY MISSION, BE EXTENDED FOR ANOTHER YEAR.

6. SOVIET INFLUENCE IN YEMEN ARMY. JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR WAS

EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS THE DIMINUTION OF SOVIET INFLUENCE IN YEMEN. HE OBSERVED THAT WHEN HE ARRIVED IN YEMEN A YEAR AGO THERE WERE 295 SUCH ADVISERS THROUGHOUT THE YEMENI MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT, WHILE PRESENTLY THERE ARE ONLY 109. JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR WAS CONVINCED THAT FIGURE WOULD DROP EVEN FURTHER IF YEMENIS COULD BE ASSURED THAT AMERICAN AND WESTERN MILITARY EQUIPMENT WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THEM. JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR SAID THAT SOVIET ADVISERS NOW HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVELY

CLOSED OUT OF SUCH IMPORTANT AREAS AS THE GHQ, QUARTERMASTERS AND SIGNAL CORPS. JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR STATED HIS GOAL IS THE COMPLETE ELIMINATION OF THE SOVIETS FROM THE YEMEN ARMY.

7. COMMENT: DESPITE AN OVER-ZEALOUS AND OCCASIONALLY INDISCREET MODUS OPERANDI, AMBASSADOR HAIDAR HAS PROVEN TO BE AN EFFECTIVE AND PERSUASIVE PLAYER ON THE LOCAL SCENE. HE HAS CERTAINLY BEEN HELPFUL TO ME BY PROVIDING ME WITH USEFUL INFO AT CRITICAL TIMES. MEANWHILE, HE AND HIS ADVISERS HAVE WITHOUT A DOUBT GAINED THE CONFIDENCE OF YEMEN'S KEY MILITARY FIGURES, INCLUDING PRESIDENT HAMDI, AND HAVE DONE MUCH TO CONVINCE THE YEMENIS OF THE UTILITY TO COOPERATE WITH THE PRO-WESTERN ARAB CAMP EVEN WHEN ASSISTANCE FROM THAT CAMP WAS SLOW IN COMING. ALTHOUGH JORDANIAN OPERATION IS REALLY A SHOE-STRING AFFAIR, IT DOES DEMONSTRATE THE FACT THAT "A LITTLE GOES A LONG WAY IN YEMEN". IT ALSO SHOWS THE EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY WHICH WE AND OUR OTHER ARAB FRIENDS HAVE IN YEMEN AT THE PRESENT TIME IF WE AND THEY ARE QUICK TO FOLLOW THROUGH IN HELPING YEMEN MODERNIZE BOTH ITS MILITARY AND CIVILIAN SECTORS.

SCOTES

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SANAA01146
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750169-0943
From: SANAA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750553/aaaabvve.tel
Line Count: 144
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <21 OCT 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR ON RECENT INTERNAL YEMENI DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PINS, MASS, JO, YE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006